

is very fully considered by Dr. Jacobi, and its entire literature appealed to, in nearly all its bearings, for facts and observations to sustain the general conclusions at which he has arrived. The article is replete with valuable suggestions, and will yield an amount of gratification and instruction that will amply repay all who may be prompted to study it with care.

The remaining portion of the volume is occupied with the reports on obstetrics and uterine pathology, and infantile pathology, for the year 1858. The first of these reports is divided into twelve sections, which treat respectively of the manuals and reports published during the year named; the anatomy and physiology of the uterus and ovaries; the physiology and pathology of pregnancy, labour, and the puerperal state; the pathology of the ovaries; the pathology and therapeutics of uterine disease, embracing general diagnosis, retarded development, malformations, displacements, uterine and peri-uterine hemorrhages, tumours and structural disease; the pathology of the bladder, vagina, and external genitals; the physiology and pathology of the breasts; the diseases of pregnancy, labour, and child-bed; appendages of fœtus, extra-uterine and multiple pregnancy; remedies; obstetrical operations.

The second report is divided into nine sections, which treat respectively of the manuals that have appeared during the past year, general pathology, dietetics, statistics, etc.; dyscræic and toxæmic diseases; diseases of the organs of digestion, circulation, respiration and of the nervous system; of the skin and sensory organs; of the genito-urinary system; of the motory organs.

These reports present features equal in interest with those of the first or original department of the volume. They embrace a large amount of highly valuable information; much of it derived from sources access to which is denied, by almost uncontrollable circumstances, to a very large portion of the profession. The editors have made their selections from the leading journals and other publications of the day, with great judgment, and have so arranged and classified them as to render their reports a useful and instructive handbook of the recent additions and improvements in scientific and practical medicine, within the departments to which the reports are specially restricted. We trust that they will receive such an amount of approval and support from their professional brethren as will warrant them in continuing to prepare and publish similar reports through the current and succeeding years. D. F. C.

ART. XX.—*Observations on the History, Pathology, and Treatment of Cancerous Diseases.* Part I. *Melanosis.* By OLIVER PEMBERTON, Surgeon to the Birmingham General Hospital. London, 1858. Pp. 38, with four coloured plates.

THIS brief essay purports to be the first of a series on the several forms of cancer, and is limited strictly to the consideration of melanotic cancer. After a survey of the bibliography of the subject, the author states that the most frequent seat of the disease, when it is a primary affection, is in the skin or the eye. "It has been observed also in its first form in the lower jaw, in the testicle, vagina, and rectum, and it is said likewise to have been seen in the liver. The case is not, however, completely authenticated." (Pp. 5.)

As a secondary deposit, "there is hardly any tissue of the body, in which, in some one or other of the previously described forms, melanotic cancer has not been found." (Pp. 7.)

After describing the various appearances presented by the disease in its several situations, as described by the writers on the subject, the author proceeds to give the details of two cases of melanotic cancer observed by himself in the hospital to which he is attached. These two cases were both examples of melanotic cancer of the skin, the primary disease being seated, in Case I. on the back, and in Case II., on the cheek; they are detailed at length from the commencement of the disease to the fatal termination, including the results of the post-mortem examinations. The four plates which accompany the work illustrate these cases.

To the investigator, the whole value of the essay lies in the history of these two cases, as the remaining contents of the work are derived from sources already sufficiently familiar. The young practitioner, however, will take interest in what must be pronounced a carefully compiled survey of the little that is known of this rare form of cancer.

The author presents a resumé of twenty-five published cases, the history of many of which is sufficiently incomplete; from these he is able to present the following slender statistics:—

Of eight primary melanotic cancers of the skin, the average duration of life was somewhat more than three years and ten months. In four, of the eye, the average duration was two years and eight months. Of fourteen primary melanotic cancers of the skin, the average duration of life, *after the operation*, was twenty-seven months. Of eight, of the eye, the average duration was sixteen months.

The microscopic structure of melanotic cancer is disposed of in ten lines, illustrated by a woodcut, copied from Carl Wedl's "Rudiments."

The melanosis of Mr. Pemberton is simply melanotic or pigmental cancer, or, to use his own words (pp. 37), "medullary cancer, with black pigment super-added." But while thus throughout the essay the term melanosis is used synonymously with melanotic cancer, the last paragraph of the work renders it very evident that Mr. Pemberton is acquainted with another melanosis, which is *not cancerous*. For he says (pp. 37): "The description that I have previously given of melanosis will be quite sufficient to distinguish it from every other disease, with the exception of non-malignant melanosis of the skin."

It is quite evident, then, that there exists for Mr. Pemberton a "non-malignant melanosis of the skin." Nay, he has evidently made its near acquaintance, for he describes its characteristics. "Non-malignant cutaneous melanosis generally arises in many spots, and these of large size, at the same time. They are, moreover, of a deep black colour; and they never give rise to cachectic symptoms." (Pp. 38.)

But it appears to us that the existence of a *non-malignant* melanosis, whether of the skin, or of any other organ, at once prevents the possibility of using the terms "melanosis" and "melanotic cancer" synonymously. And in view of the fact that brownish or blackish pigmental deposits may occur in almost *any* normal texture, and in almost any new formations it would seem better to banish the term melanosis, and speak of cancer with pigment deposit, of naevi with pigment deposit, &c. &c., instead of applying a single generic term which may lead to constant misconception.

J. J. W.

ART. XXI.—*Disorders of the Blood*. By JULIUS VOGEL, M. D., Professor of Clinical Medicine in the University of Giessen. Translated and edited by CHUNDER COOMAR DEX, Graduate of the Medical College of Bengal. Calcutta, 1856. 8vo. pp. 219.

THIS work is an excellent translation of the *Störungen der Blutmischung*, constituting the 4th section of Virchow's *Handbuch der Speciellen Pathologie und Therapie*. Published several years ago, it has become so well known to the profession that no particular account of it is needed in this place. It is sufficient, therefore, to observe that the work is justly regarded as a lucid, methodical, and accurate exposition of all that is positively known and well established concerning the various alterations in the quantity, quality, and property of the normal blood-constituents, the abnormal accumulation of noxious matters in the blood, and the putrefactive changes which this fluid undergoes in certain diseased conditions of the economy. Rich in well established facts whose practical application to clinical medicine has been frequently and satisfactorily tested, and at the same time remarkably free from all dubious and uncertain details, it constitutes, in fact, a practical, "important, and useful monograph on the subject of blood diseases," and, as such, fully sustains the distinguished reputation and high position of the author.